THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Quantitative restrictions on the import of various items including food items have been removed as a part of the process of economic liberalization and also in terms of our international commitments and obligations. The import of certain products of animal origin are, however, restricted/ prohibited for import. The import of foodgrains like wheat, rice, maize, other coarse cereals can be made only by nominated State Trading Enterprises. The import of beef is prohibited. The detailed item-wise policy for import is available in Schedule-I of the ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import items, 2004-09.

The item-wise export policy is available in Schedule-II of the ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import items, 2004-09. Most of the commonly grown food items such as cereals, pulses, oil-seeds, vegetables, fruits, natural forest produce such as honey and dairy products, animal products, manufactured/prepared or processed food items are freely exportable subject to availability being certified by the concerned Ministry, wherever necessary.

(b) As per Director General, Commercial Intelligence & Statistics' figures, there is no excessive import of food items and hence on this account domestic prices have not been affected.

(c) The import of 300 sensitive items including major food items is being monitored on a regular basis by the Government for checking any surge in imports. The Government has taken many measures to boost export of food items by giving special incentives such as duty free entitlement under Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana. This will enable Indian farmers to get more remunerative prices for their products.

Concessions given to Uttaranchal by DIPP

†1749. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the concessions given by Department of Industrial Policy and promotion to the newly created State of Uttaranchal on 7th January, 2003 and afterwards;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for providing these facilities to Uttaranchal;

(c) the points relevant to Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand out of the above reasons; and

(d) whether the facilities provided to Uttaranchal will be given for Chhattisgarh also, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) The Government announced a package of economic incentives on 07.01.2003 for promoting industrialization in the State of Uttaranchal. Under this package, various incentives like income tax exemption, excise exemption and Capital Investment Subsidy to new industrial units and existing industrial units on their substantial expansion in the identified locations have been provided. These concessions were announced keeping in view that the State of Uttaranchal is hilly, remote and inaccessible. The States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand do not have any such geographical constraints. There is no proposal to provide a similar package of incentives for the State of Chhattisgarh.

Proposal of USA and European Countries regarding agricultural products of India

†1750. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA and European countries have put a proposal before India that it should make its market free for import of agricultural products and reduce the taxes on imports so that they could reduce subsidy on agricultural products in their country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the import duty with regard to USA imports is already less in India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.